

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A stent with a tubular support frame (2) consisting of axially successively following, interconnected annular segments (3,4, 5), which support frame (2) is surrounded on its outside by a thread (11), characterized in that the thread ends (12,13) are guided via a deflection (14) from the outside into the support frame (2), where they are coupled by a connector (17).

2. (Previously Presented) The stent according to Claim 1, characterized in that the deflection (14) is realized at least one deflection element (15,16 ; 19, 20; 22,23 ; 26,27) provided on an annular segment (3,4).

3. (Currently Amended) The stent according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the deflection (14) is formed by two deflection elements (15,16 ; 19,20 ; 22,23 ; 26,27) arranged on the circumference of the support frame (2) with an interval (A) from one another.

4. (Currently Amended) The stent according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the deflection (14) is provided on the end-side annular segment (3), viewed in the direction of the longitudinal axis (L) of the stent.

5. (Currently Amended) The stent according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the deflection (14) is arranged on the inner side, facing the middle of the stent, of the annular segment (3).

6. (Currently Amended) The stent according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the deflection (14) is formed by two deflection elements (19,20 ; 22,23) of which a first deflection element (19; 22) is arranged on the inner side, facing the middle of the stent, of an annular segment (3) and that the second deflection element (20; 23) is arranged on the outer side of the annular segment (3).

7. (Currently Amended) The stent according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the deflection (14) is formed by two deflection elements (26,27) of which a first deflection element (26) is provided on the end-side annular segment (3), viewed in the direction of the longitudinal axis (L) of the stent, and a second deflection element (27) is provided on the adjacent annular segment (4).

8. (Currently Amended) The stent according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the connector (17) consists of a material visible in x-rays.

9. (Currently Amended) The stent according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, characterized in that additional guide elements (28) are provided in the support frame (2).

10. (Currently Amended) The stent according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the annular segments (3,4, 5) are formed by struts (6,7) that follow one another in an endless, corrugated manner and that adjacent annular segments (3, 4,9) are coupled by connector struts (8, 8').

11. (Currently Amended) The stent according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1, characterized in that each connector strut (8, 8') comprises a longitudinal section (9) running substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis (L) of the stent and comprises a strut section (10) aligned transversely to the latter and configured in a U shape or V shape.